

Conquering Critical People

"EGR's: Extra Grace Required", Part 2 of 5
Pastor Vince DiPaola

I) COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF CRITICS

- 1) They have a NEGATIVE, "CAN'T DO" attitude.
- 2) They get OVERLY ANGRY when they disagree.
- 3) They COMPLAIN when things aren't how they want.
- 4) They JUDGE situations by unrealistic standards.
- 5) They DRAIN people that have to deal with them.

"He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind..."
(1Timothy 6:4b-5a, NIV)

II) INSTRUCTIVE INSIGHTS INTO CRITICS

- 1) They often believe that their CRITICISM IS HELPFUL.

"How can you think of saying, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye?"
(Matthew 7:4, NLT)

- 2) They're often struggling w/ SOMETHING ELSE IN LIFE.

"To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.' For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and 'sinners.'" But wisdom is proved right by all her children."
(Luke 7:31-35, NIV)

- 3) They are often driven by PERSONAL ORIGIN ISSUES.

"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."
(Luke 6:45, NIV)

III) SOME CONQUERING CURES FOR CRITICS

- 1) CONFRONT CRITICS assertively yet compassionately.

"Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen."
(2Timothy 2:14, NIV)

- 2) LIMIT LISTENING to only what is truly constructive.

"If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject criticism, you will only harm yourself."
(Proverbs 15:31-32, NLT)

- 3) CUT OFF COMMUNICATION when it's not productive.

"Jesus replied, 'Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be rooted up, so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind... they will both fall into a ditch.'"
(Matthew 15:13-14, NLT)

- 4) FACE THE CRITIC that exists within yourself.

"Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you— for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others."
(Ecclesiastes 7:21-22, NIV)

- 5) DON'T PACIFY CRITICS; just focus on pleasing God.

"For we speak as messengers who have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people."
(1Thessalonians 2:4, NLT)